

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed June 22, 2007, claims 1 – 25 were rejected. In response Applicants have amended claims 1 – 17 and 19 – 24, canceled claim 25, and added claim 26. Applicants hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below-provided remarks.

For reference, all of the claims have been amended to remove the reference numbers.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Erba et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,292,233, hereinafter Erba).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the standby circuit includes “a programming interface for programming the control unit, wherein the programming determines how the control unit responds to inputs from the one or more signal inputs.” Support for this amendment is found in Applicants’ specification at, for example, paragraph [0060]. Applicants assert that Erba does not disclose a programming interface as recited in amended claim 1. Although Erba discloses a local key interface (38), an infrared receiver (40), and a zero crossing interface (42) for providing inputs to the microcontroller unit (32), Erba does not disclose an interface that is used to program the microcontroller unit (32) as recited in amended claim 1. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 1, Applicants assert that claim 1 is not anticipated by Erba.

Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite that the electrical device includes “an energy store configured to supply stored electrical energy to the standby circuit.” Support for this amendment is found in Applicants’ specification at, for example, paragraphs [0086], [0087], and [0092], and element 58 in Fig. 3 and element 72 in Fig. 4. Applicants assert that Erba does not disclose an energy store as recited in amended claim 15. Erba does disclose a power supply stage (36). However, Erba does

not disclose that the power supply stage has any ability to supply “stored electrical energy” to the standby circuit. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 15, Applicants assert that claim 15 is not anticipated by Erba.

Dependent claim 19

Dependent claim 19 recites that the energy store is a “rechargeable element, while the energy store is charged when the power supply unit is switched on.” Applicants assert Erba does not disclose a rechargeable energy store as recited in claim 19. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 19, Applicants assert that claim 19 is not anticipated by Erba.

Dependent claim 20

Dependent claim 20 recites switching the device to power-up mode after a predetermined period of time to charge the energy store. Because Erba does not disclose a rechargeable energy store, it follows that Erba does not disclose a technique for managing the recharging of the rechargeable energy store. Further, Applicants have found no mention, in Erba at col. 3, lines 35+, of switching the device to power-up mode after a predetermined period of time to charge the energy store. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 20, Applicants assert that claim 20 is not anticipated by Erba.

Dependent claim 21

Dependent claim 21 recites “a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store.” Applicants have found no mention of an energy store and no mention of “a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store” as recited in claim 21. Further, Applicants have found no mention, in Erba at col. 3, lines 35+, of switching the device to power-up mode after a predetermined period of time to charge the energy store.

Independent Claim 22

Independent claim 22 has been amended to recite “bi-directional data exchange occurs between the standby circuit and the one or more functional units.” Support for

this amendment is found in Applicants' specification at, for example, paragraph [0054] and elements 9, 10, and 34 in Fig. 1. Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), see Fig. 2. Although Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), Erba does not disclose bi-directional data exchange as recited in amended claim 22. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 22, Applicants assert that claim 22 is not anticipated by Erba.

New Independent Claim 26

Independent claim 26 recites an electrical device that includes "a data bus that enables bi-directional data communications between the standby circuit and one or more of the functional units." Support for this limitation is found in Applicants' specification at, for example, paragraph [0054] and elements 9, 10, and 34 in Fig. 1. As described above, Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), see Fig. 2. Although Erba discloses unidirectional communication from the microcontroller unit (32) to the main microcontroller unit (18) of the TV chassis (12), Erba does not disclose a data bus that enables bi-directional data communications as recited in claim 26. Because Erba does not disclose every limitation of claim 26, Applicants assert that claim 26 is not anticipated by Erba.

Dependent Claims 2 – 14, 16, 17, 19 – 21, 23, and 24

Claims 2 – 14 are dependent on claim 1, claims 16, 17, and 19 – 21 are dependent on claim 15, and claims 23 and 24 are dependent on claim 22. Applicants assert that these claims are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

/mark a. wilson/

Date: September 4, 2007

Mark A. Wilson
Reg. No. 43,994

Wilson & Ham
PMB: 348
2530 Berryessa Road
San Jose, CA 95132
Phone: (925) 249-1300
Fax: (925) 249-0111